

SECRETINFORMATION

March 25, 1971

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: Helmut Sonnenfeldt *15*

SUBJECT: Differences Again Between the Quai and the Elysee

Embassy Paris has again detected divergent views on the Middle East between the French Foreign Office and President Pompidou's staff.

1) The Quai is reported to have suggested that a negative statement be issued on Secretary Rogers' Middle East speech, following the March 17 Council of Ministers Meeting, but an Elysee press official (Baudouin) disagreed. Upon hearing the latter's case, Pompidou concurred that the Rogers statement moved the US closer to France on several points, a tendency which France should encourage. A more positive statement was subsequently issued by Lee Hamon, the French government spokesman, taking note of the "important declarations" which Rogers had made.

2) More recently, we have received another report that French UN representative Kosciuszko-Morizet had recommended to the Quai in early March that the French government take an initiative to convene a three-power meeting on the Middle East, without US participation. With Secretary-General Alphand in charge, the recommendation was approved within the Quai and then cleared with Schumann, who happened to be in Brussels. The next morning, however, Elysee Secretary-General Jobert, upon seeing the outgoing telegram, reportedly called Alphand and instructed him to cancel it. Jobert's action was later backed by Pompidou.

These problems seem to be increasing in Paris. High level Quai officials seem basically responsible for the anti-US line -- most likely Alphand, with de Beaumarchais in a supporting role. (Two supporting telegrams are at Tab A.) But Alphand does have a direct relationship with Pompidou and we should not simply accept the proposition that all our problems are due to the Quai. There are other domestic forces that play on Pompidou as well -- apart from some of Pompidou's own convictions and prejudices.

State Dept. review completed

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